

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02349 162046Z

67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SCSE-00 SCA-01 FBOE-00

OPR-02 SY-05 SCCT-01 USSS-00 /089 W

----- 036635

O R 162020Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9039

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

UNCLAS BEIRUT 2349

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, LE

SUBJ: SITUATION AS OF 2100 HOURS MARCH 16

1. NO MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS OCCURRED IN LATER PART OF MARCH 16, EITHER POLITICALLY OR MILITARILY. SCENE HAS TO LARGE EXTENT SHIFTED TO DAMASCUS AS SAIQA'S ZUBAIR MUHSIN, PDFLP'S NAIF HAWATMEH, NASSERITE IBRAHIM QULAYLAT, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF LT. KHATIB HAVE GONE THERE TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION WITH SYRIAN OFFICIALS.

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02349 162046Z

2. A FORMULA ATTRIBUTED TO SYRIANS WOULD HAVE FRANGIE NAME EITHER GEN.HANNA SAID OR FORMER SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT BEDRI MEOUCHY (BOTH MARONITE) AS PREMIER, AFTER WHICH FRANGIE WOULD RESIGN. THIS AND OTHER IDEAS ARE CIRCULATING AS CONSULTATIONS CONTINUE IN EFFORT TO BREAK IMPASSE. RAYMOND EDDE SAYS THAT FRANGIE SHOULD ANNOUNCE HIS RESIGNATION BUT MAKE ITS EFFECTIVE DATE CONTINGENT UPON ELECTION OF A SUCCESSOR.JUMBLATT, IN STATEMENT GENERALLY CRITICAL OF SYRIAN INTERVENTION, DECLARED THAT PARLIAMENT SHOULD SIMPLY CONSIDER THE PRESIDENT AS HAVING RESIGNED IF FRANGIE REFUSES TO STEP DOWN.

3. SECURITY SITUATION IN BEIRUT REMAINS BAD, THOUGH NO SUSTAINED CLASHES ARE REPORTED. ARMED MEN ARE NEARLY EVERYWHERE. GUNMEN ATTACKED A PRISON IN BEIRUT AND FREED ABOUT 700 PRISONERS (AMONG WHOM PRESUMABLY ARE TWO AMERICANS HELD THERE). KATAEB MILITIAMEN PILLAGED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ASHRAFIYA, BUT THE PARTY IS RETURNING ARTICLES STOLEN FROM FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA'S OFFICE.
LAMBRAKIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 16 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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04 MAY 2006

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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